

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 238

Introduced by Assembly Member Oropeza

January 30, 2003

An act relating to parks and resources.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 238, as introduced, Oropeza. Parks and resources.

Under existing law, programs have been established for, among other things, the development and enhancement of state and local parks and recreational facilities.

This bill would state the intent of the Legislature to make reasonable and cost-effective investments in the state's parks and recreational and conservation areas.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. The Legislature hereby finds and declares all of
2 the following:
3 (a) California's economy is significantly based on its natural
4 and cultural resources. Protection of the environment is critical for
5 California's tourism, recreation, and commercial fishing
6 industries.
7 (b) Californians are very proud of the excellent system of local,
8 regional, and state parks that they have established, providing
9 places for families to enjoy quality time together and enjoy our
10 state's rich outdoor experiences.

1 (c) Parks and scenic areas are essential to maintaining strong
2 communities, improving the quality of life for California's
3 residents, protecting our natural and cultural resources, and
4 attracting visitors who contribute to the state's vibrant tourism
5 economy.

6 (d) For more than 60 years, generations of Californians have
7 taken the responsibility to invest in our proud system of local,
8 regional, and state parks by establishing excellent recreational and
9 scenic facilities.

10 (e) By taking responsibility today to protect our investments,
11 we can repair and improve our parks and recreational and
12 conservation areas and facilities to make certain that families have
13 safe places to enjoy and that tourists will continue to enrich our
14 economy by visiting these areas and facilities.

15 (f) Our parks and recreational and conservation areas and
16 facilities are also an investment in establishing a healthier future
17 for our youth. Not only can we help our local communities
18 establish safer places for our children to play, but we can help
19 instill a sense of responsibility and improve job skills by putting
20 our youth to work improving our parks and recreational and
21 conservation areas and facilities.

22 (g) There is a great need to make reasonable and cost-effective
23 investments in our parks and recreational and conservation areas,
24 with emphasis on the following:

25 (1) Making our parks safer.

26 (2) Preparing and restoring worn out and damaged parks and
27 open-space facilities.

28 (3) Providing Californians with greater access to enjoy parks
29 and recreational and conservation facilities by building and
30 improving facilities as restrooms, campgrounds, and trails.

31 (4) Protecting scenic, conservation, historical, and
32 archaeological resources, and water quality.

33 (5) Taking the responsibility now to meet California's growing
34 needs so that current and future generations have adequate parks
35 and recreational and conservation facilities to enjoy.

36 (6) Promoting job opportunities that provide our youth with
37 healthy alternatives to drugs, gangs, and other forms of
38 delinquency.

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